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AFFAIRES DE L'ANGLETERRE ET DE L'AMÉRIQUE.

BY PAUL LEICESTER FORD.

In 1776 there was commenced at Paris, though with the imprint of "Anvers," a periodical entitled "*Affaires de l'Angleterre et de l'Amérique*," which was published for about four years, and was, according to Barbier,¹ edited by Benjamin Franklin, Antoine Court de Gébeline, Jean Baptiste René Robinet, and others. As its title indicates, it was devoted to the history of the American Revolution, and the plan of the work was threefold:

I. To print in diary form a narrative of events.

II. To reprint from newspapers and pamphlets matter of especial interest.

III. To give, in what purported to be letters from a London banker, the inside political history and parliamentary proceedings of Great Britain.²

The work as thus printed, though containing many errors, is one of singular value for the history of the period covered. Edited to a certain extent in a partisan manner, it was clearly intended to neutralize the accounts published by the ordinary French journals, who drew their news from the English press, and by giving the French people accurate information concerning the causes and progress of the war, encourage them in their sympathy with the American cause, and so add another lever to the forces that were acting on the French government to make it recognize our independence. Yet the rarity of this work, together with the ignorance of its contents,—due partly to Rich's misstate-

¹ "*Dictionnaire des Ouvrages*," anonymes.

² These "*Lettres d'un Banquier*" were written, so I have seen stated, by Dr. Edward Bancroft.

ment that "this work appears to have been an imitation of Almon's 'Remembrancer,'" ¹—has made it practically neglected as a source of history.

The work has also been neglected from a bibliographical stand-point. Issued at irregular intervals, several times changed in plan and method of publication, few of the volumes with title-pages, and full of typographical errors in the pagings and numberings of the parts, it is one of the most intricate and puzzling studies in collation. Barbier and Rich, therefore, merely stated that it was in fifteen volumes. Sabin ² gives it as "24 cahiers divided into 8 tomes, usually bound in 17 volumes;" and it remained for Leclerc ³ to even attempt a collation, which, made from a single imperfect set, and confused by two misleading typographical errors, is of really no value for ascertaining what constitutes a perfect series.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Theodore F. Dwight, of Washington, I have obtained collations of the sets in the library of the Department of State ⁴ and the Library of Congress. ⁵ Personally I have collated the sets in the New York State, ⁶ Harvard College, ⁷ Massachusetts Historical Society, ⁸ and the Thomas Crane Public ⁹ (Quincy) libraries, and the collations of these seven imperfect sets have been compared with another imperfect set in the library of Gordon L. Ford, of Brooklyn. From these comparisons I have made a collation which I believe will show what, for working purposes, is a set of the work.

The work was issued in parts, or "cahiers," bound in

¹ "Bibliotheca Americana Nova," I. 247.

² "Dictionary of Books relating to America," I.

³ "Bibliotheca Americana" (1878), 646. The set of fourteen slightly imperfect volumes is priced at two hundred and fifty francs.

⁴ This set contains fifteen volumes.

⁵ This set contains fourteen slightly imperfect volumes.

⁶ This set contains thirteen very imperfect volumes.

⁷ This set contains fifteen volumes.

⁸ This set contains seventeen slightly imperfect volumes, and is the best set so far as I know.

⁹ This set contains fourteen volumes. It is John Adams's copy.

blue paper covers,¹ which were numbered; but, like Almon's "Remembrancer," it is practically unfindable in this condition. The "cahiers" were also numbered on the signature-leaf till number 36 was reached, after which the numbering was disregarded, so that it becomes impossible to distinguish the parts; and I have therefore paid no attention to them in my collation, except to note, from information given in the index to each volume, the "cahiers" that should be contained in each volume. The matter is divided into two classes, which the editor or editors distinguished as "Journal" and "Lettres d'un Banquier." These in volumes I.-II. were combined in each "cahier" and paged continuously; in volumes III.-VI. they were included in the same volume, but separately paged, the "Journal" in Arabic numerals, and the "Lettres" in Roman numerals; after volume VI. they were issued as separate volumes, but retaining this distinction of numbering. Though the work is nominally in fifteen volumes, and really in seventeen volumes, but three title-pages were issued.

Vol. I.² "Journal" and "Lettres." Cahiers 1 to 5. Title, 1 l.;

Advertisement, 1 l.; pp. 103; 88; (65)-80; (17)-92; 103; 118.

Vol. II.³ "Journal" and "Lettres." Cahiers 6 to 10;

Title, 1 l.; pp. 88; 95; 101; 80; 80; Table and Index, 19.

Vol. III. "Journal" and "Lettres." Cahiers 11 to 15. Pp.

88; (113)-144; 161-272; xlij; Avis, 1 l.; xiv [for xlv]-xcxviv [for xciv]; xc xvij [for xcvi]-ccxxiv; Table and Index, 11.

¹ I have seen but three numbers in this condition. The title reads: "Affaires | de l'Angleterre | et de l'Amérique. | No. LXI. | On souscrit à Paris chez Pissot, Libraire, | Quai des Augustins. | L'Abonnement pour vingt Numéros, commençant | par le soixante-unième, est de 24 liv. pour Paris, & de 32 liv. post franc, pour la Province. | On trouve chez la même Libraire, les soixant pre- | miers Numéros, formant les deux première années. | A Anvers | M.DCC.LXXVIII."

² The title reads: "Affaires | de l'Angleterre | et de l'Amérique. | N°. 1^{re}. | A Anvers. | M.DCC.LXXVI."

³ The title reads: "Affaires | de | l'Angleterre | et de l'Amérique. | Tome II. | A Anvers. | 1776."

- Vol. IV. "Journal" and "Lettres." Cahiers 16 to 20. Pp. 128; 137-160; ccliv [2 lx, no lxxvi]; Table and Index, 8.
- Vol. V. "Journal" and "Lettres." Cahiers 21 to 25 [no cahier 25 in the "Journal" series]. Pp. 112; clvj; clxi-ccxiv; folding table, 1 l.; ccxv-cccxiv [no cccv]; Table and Index, 7.
- Vol. VI. "Journal" and "Lettres." Cahiers 26 to 30. Pp. 160; Avis, 1 l.; lxiv; lix [for xlix]-clxxiv; clxxij-ccvii; Table and Index, 10.
- Vol. VII. "Lettres." Cahiers 31 to 36. Pp. xlvi; Avis, 1 l.; xlvij-ccclxxvi; *Advertissement*, ij; ccxxj-ccclxxvij; Table and Index, 8.
- Vol. VIII.¹ "Journal." Cahiers 31 to 44.² Title, 1 l.; pp. 320; Avis, 2; 321-368; Table and Index, 11.
- Vol. IX. "Lettres." Cahiers 37 to 42. Pp. cxxvi; "Retrenchement," 1 l.; cxxix-ccxlvj; notice, 1 l.; Avis, 1 l.; ccxlix-cccx; ccxiiij-ccclix; [2 cccxxxvij]; Table and Index, 10.
- Vol. X. "Lettres." Cahiers 43 to 47. Pp. lxiiij; *Advertissement*, ij; lxx-clxxxvj; m*, 1 l.; clxxxvij-ccclxx; ccclix-ccclxxij; Table and Index, 13.
- Vol. XI. "Journal." Cahiers 48 to 63. [Cahiers 48 and 49 are misprinted Vol. IX.] Pp. 368. Table and Index, 11.
- Vol. XII. "Lettres." Cahiers 48 to 54. Pp. lxxxj [for ccxxix, no ccxxv-vi]; ccxix-ccxciv; ccxcvij-cccxxxiv; cccxxxvij-ccclxxix; Table and Index, 6.
- Vol. XIII. "Journal." Cahiers 64 to 82. Pp. 348. Table and Index, 7.
- Vol. XIV. "Lettres." Cahiers 55 to 61. Pp. ccxc; Avis, 1 l.; ccxcij-cccxxx; Table and Index, 6.

¹ The title reads: "Affaires | de | l'Angleterre | et de | l'Amérique. | Tome VIII. | Formant de la partie du Journal de 1776, | No. XXXI & XLIV inclusivement. | A Anvers | et se trouve à Paris, | Chez Pissot, Libraire, quai des Augustins. | 1778."

² There is an apparent omission between Vols. VIII. and XI. of three cahiers of the "Journal" series, but it is evidently merely a misprint, for the dates show no gap.

Vol. XIII. "Lettres." Cahiers 62 to 69. Pp. clxxxij; clxxxv-ccxxj; ccxxv-cclxxxj; Title, 1 l.; Advertissement (cclxxxiv)-cclxxxvij; (cclxxxix)-cccxlvi; ccclix-ccccix; Table and Index, 5.

Vol. XIV. "Lettres." Cahiers 70 to 75. Pp. ccxcij; ccxcviij-ccccij; Table and Index, 4.

Vol. XV. "Lettres." Cahiers 75 to 82. Pp. lxiv; folding table ("Ligne de Bataille"); lxv-xcj; folding table ("Ligne de Bataille"); xcij-cxlvj; title ("Exposé") 1 l.; cxlix; (clij)-ccx; ccxij-cclxviij; cclxxxj-cccx; ccxcij-cccxliv; 14 folding tables; Avis, 5; Table, 5.